

I know because of the many times that I have worked with refugees in California, trying to help their families away from the oppression, that people still face in Vietnam how important this measure is, and I commend the authors for jumping through I do not know how many legislative hoops to get it on this floor today.

I would also like to bring, because she was not aware it was going to be on the floor any more than I was before I got the call, that the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] from Orange County and I recently held, with others, a human rights forum and study under the Human Rights Caucus, and the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] and I learned firsthand from the testimony how important this measure is. And so I am sure I join with others, including my colleague from California, in urging support of this bill.

I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for allowing me to say these few words in support.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I do, however, ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will be brief so as not to prolong this debate because I do not think there is anybody who opposes this bill. The bill serves a useful purpose of extending and clarifying an important State Department and INS authority that expired on September 30, 1997. This authority was necessary to allow longtime reeducation camp victims who have been persecuted in Vietnam for their pro-U.S. associations to bring their unmarried children with them to the United States if these children have reached the age of 21 during their incarceration or the long wait for an exit visa from the Communist authorities. A number of these former prisoners of conscience have refused to leave Vietnam unless they can bring their children. These families are trapped in Vietnam until this provision is reauthorized.

The extension of this authority has been endorsed by the Clinton administration, Senators MCCAIN, ABRAHAM, and KENNEDY, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE], the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN], and many others. As I say, there is no real objection to this bill.

I do want to raise one point, however, that I think can go unnoticed in the waning moments of a congressional

session. This is a matter of immigration policy, and because this bill was just introduced, just dropped within the last minutes, the bill never has had a chance to go through the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims of the Committee on the Judiciary, and so we continue to make somewhat haphazardly immigration policy in this country, and we yesterday on an appropriations bill made exceptions for Nicaraguans, Guatemalans, Salvadorans, other people from Communist countries, to be treated as refugees.

Under this bill, we make exceptions for some Vietnamese who obviously are very deserving, and the thing that is troubling is that we keep making these exceptions, all of which we support, but we keep leaving out the Haitians, which a number of people rose on the floor yesterday, especially Representatives from Florida, to try to see why we keep leaving out the Haitians, who really ought to be given an exception similar to the exceptions that we have given, we are giving, under this bill, that we gave under an appropriations bill to the Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and others yesterday.

Why do we keep leaving out the Haitians? And that question cries out for a response even though they are not people who oppose this particular bill. The question still is out there, why can we not find a bill and support for the Haitian people who came to this country under parole of Republican and Democratic Presidents, were given a status, and yet we are not dealing with them, we are ignoring them in the process of passing these bills?

So having expressed the procedural concern that we are haphazardly and kind of case-by-case making immigration policy without this bill having gone through the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims or the Committee on the Judiciary, and having expressed a concern that nobody seems to be paying attention to the plight of the Haitians even though there is a bill which could just as easily be picked up and moved on the floor as this bill is being moved, I encourage my colleagues nonetheless to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his expression of support for the bill. I would encourage all Members to vote for this important bill, which will ensure that some people will be spared injustice if passed by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. CANADY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3037.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF LEGISLATION TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES TODAY

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to H. Res. 314, I would like to announce that the following suspension is expected to be considered today:

H.Con.Res. 197, calling for the resignation or removal from office of Sara E. Lister, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

#### ARMY RESERVE-NATIONAL GUARD EQUITY REIMBURSEMENT ACT

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2796) to authorize the reimbursement of members of the Army deployed to Europe in support of operations in Bosnia for certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the members during the period beginning October 1, 1996, and ending on May 31, 1997, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2796

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Army Reserve-National Guard Equity Reimbursement Act".

#### SEC. 2. REIMBURSEMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMY DEPLOYED IN EUROPE IN SUPPORT OF BOSNIA OPERATIONS FOR OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES INCURRED TO TRANSPORT PERSONAL PROPERTY.

(a) REIMBURSEMENT AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Army may reimburse an individual described in subsection (b) for expenses incurred by that individual while a member of the Army for shipment of personal property of the individual to or from Europe during the period beginning on October 1, 1996, and ending on May 31, 1997, if the shipment of the personal property, if made on June 1, 1997, would have been covered by a temporary change of station weight allowance for shipment of personal property authorized by the Department of the Army. Such reimbursement shall be made from amounts available as of the date of the enactment of this section for the payment of the temporary change of station weight allowance.

(b) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—An individual referred to in subsection (a) is an individual who, as a member of the Army during the period beginning on October 1, 1996, and ending on May 31, 1997, was deployed from the United States to Europe in support of operations in Bosnia or reassigned from Europe to United States upon the completion of such deployment, or both, under travel orders that did not authorize a temporary change of station weight allowance for shipment of personal property of the member.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. SNOWBARGER]. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BATEMAN] and the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BATEMAN].